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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, INCLUDING THE PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Note verbale dated 11 March 1975 from the Permanent Mission
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the statement of His Excellency Mr. Mohammad-Daoud, Head of State and Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued on 1 January 1975, on the occasion of the proclamation of 1975 as International Women's Year.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Afghanistan would be grateful if the statement could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 77 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session.

* A/10000.

ANNEX

Statement of His Excellency, Mr. Mohammad Daoud, Head of State
and Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued on
1 January 1975, on the occasion of the proclamation of 1975 as
International Women's Year

Esteemed Sisters,

I am pleased to offer my best wishes at this time when, as designated by the resolution of the United Nations, the year 1975 begins as a year of wide participation in honouring the status of women and securing their rights as equal members of society.

It is a pleasure for me to see that the United Nations, while tending to other world problems, has been able to turn its attention to women's rights and to respecting their position as half the world's population.

Reviewing the past, we witness in our society that women, besides raising their children and tending to the affairs of the family, always have served our country side by side with men; and their human dignity as active members of society always has been protected in accordance with the requirements and wishes of the society.

With pleasure it should be mentioned that the women's movement in Afghanistan was initiated 15 years ago, according to the requirements of the time, for the active participation of Afghan women in the development of our country and for the enjoyment of their civil rights in the framework of human justice and social laws. The purpose of this action was to ensure their participation side by side with the men in social service.

Fortunately, we notice today that this movement, with the co-operation of enlightened women, has met with success; and, to the extent possible, Afghan women are engaged side by side with their brothers in various fields of national development.

Also, we might note that going to extremes, in whatever it may be, will not have good results. Undue emulation of appearances and extravagance, beyond one's economic means and discordant with the spirit of national revolution, cannot be reasonable or commendable. Therefore, patriotic sisters and daughters, I invite your voluntary scrutiny and assessment of this issue which should not be treated as unimportant. I hope you will search for a reasonable solution to its rectification.

I am convinced that the scope of this co-operation expands every day and that Afghan women, with their nobility and special status, will take an increasingly more active role in the development of our country.

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In our country, as in the rest of the developing countries, illiteracy and undesirable customs, among other cultural obstacles, block the realization of women's rights and participation in social service.

But comprehensive planning and wide-ranging enlightenment of the society most certainly will solve such problems in our society as well as those in other similar societies.

With further enlightenment, the Government is desirous of greater utilization of women's power in the construction of the new Afghan society and increased attraction of their services.

In the meantime, it is our hope to provide better working opportunities for women so that they can benefit from their civil rights and to assure human justice between men and women, in accordance with national values and social requirements.

Also, for the benefit of the Afghan society in the course of the International Women's Year, the Government will expedite the work of subsidiary committees for campaigning against undesirable customs and will try to establish a family guidance committee for consultation.

Today, when the International Women's Year, with its slogan "Equality, development and peace", is being inaugurated, I sincerely hope that, with the co-operation of our compatriots and international organizations, success will be achieved in improving the condition of women, ascertaining their position, and ensuring their rights on both the national and international levels, and that the year will be a good beginning for the permanent participation of women in social service, elimination of discrimination against women, and their enjoyment of human and civil rights.

May almighty God help you succeed in rendering effective and beneficial service to the dear country Afghanistan.
